Abstract of the Disclosure

A computerized telephony bridge unit has a Data Network

5   Telephony (DNT) Port and a Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony

(COST) trunk port, each associated with circuitry for receiving a placing

calls in the data format required by connected networks. The bridge unit

further comprises conversion circuitry for converting data dynamically

between network protocols compatible with each connected network.

10   Control routines executable on the computerized bridge unit are adapted to

receive a first call from one of the COST and DNT networks, to place a call

associated with the received call on the network other than the network on

which the call is received, and to dynamically convert data between a call

connected at one port and a call connected at the other port. The data

15   network can be the Internet, and the COST network can be any publicly or

privately switched dedicated-connection-oriented telephone network.

Association between calls between two otherwise incompatible networks

can be by a locally-stored lookup table, by negotiation with a caller, or by

retrieval of data from incoming calls. Methods for practicing the invention

20   are taught in the disclosure.